



CHAUTAUQUA WATERSHED CONSERVANCY

CWC remains committed to preserving and enhancing the water quality, scenic beauty, and ecological health of the Chautauqua region. We are working diligently to address nutrient and pollution runoff that fuel excessive aquatic plant and algae growth by conserving forests, wetlands, and other natural landscapes, which is the most effective way to protect water quality.

Your donation today will support CWC's efforts in 2022 to:

- Engage lakeshore and watershed landowners to establish lake-friendly *LakeScapes* plantings to restore and enhance wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion and filter nutrients before they reach the lake!
- Pursue land acquisitions for conservation, including the:
 - 57 acres on and near Goose Creek upstream from Chautauqua Lake,
 - 50 acres of forest with 0.75-mile of Cheney Creek upstream from Chautauqua Lake,
 - A conservation easement on 5 acres of forest to expand the Chautauqua Creek Oxbow Preserve in the Town of Chautauqua upstream from Westfield's public water supply intake,
 - 6 acres to expand the Salomon Family Preserve, which will conserve road frontage forest acreage threatened with residential development,
 - 14 acres of ecologically valuable waterfront forest at the mouth of Chautauqua Creek on Lake Erie,
 - And more conservation projects!
- Pursue conservation actions with landowners and partner to reduce erosion from the serious erosion sites on Bemus, Goose, Mud and Prendergast Creeks delivering mud to Chautauqua Lake and helping to fuel excessive invasive plant growth in the lake.
- Develop a strategic land conservation plan using state of the art mapping to guide efforts to conserve the most important ecological and hydrological sites and landscapes across the region.
- Work with landowners to develop conservation and reforestation projects to conserve important wildlife habitat, protect water quality, enhance stormwater treatment, and sequester carbon to locally fight climate change.
- Work with municipal leaders, engineers, and landowners to design and complete stormwater, sediment, and nutrient capture projects, including in the Town of Chautauqua, Lakewood, Busti and North Harmony.
- Implement forest conservation and restoration projects to capture carbon and fight climate change.
- Complete access improvements to open the Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park to the public.
- Engage and educate the public on watershed and wildlife-friendly land care through programs, one-on-one technical assistance, *The 'Shed Sheet* newsletter, social media and other print and online sources.
- Lead an initiative to address degraded conditions and restore the ecological health and beauty of the Chadakoin River in the City of Jamestown from the Warner Dam to the Village of Falconer.



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Together we have made great strides in the protection and enhancement of Chautauqua County's habitats, watersheds, and waterways. Your contributions and grants have leveraged \$9.5 million for land conservation and outdoor recreation in Chautauqua County! *You* have helped create 32 nature preserves protecting 1,100 acres!

Over the last 31 years, **YOU** have enabled CWC's important work. Your gifts have helped us to:

- Protect 2 miles of Chautauqua Lake shoreline to conserve habitat, wetlands, scenic beauty, and public access, including:
 - The Cheney Farm Lakeshore, which protected 34 acres of land and 3,600 feet of Chautauqua Lake shoreline and resulted in a \$3.2 million New York State conservation investment.
 - The Stow Farm Lakeshore, which protected 19 acres of land, including 9 acres of wetlands, and 1,180 feet of shoreline, thanks to the landowner, NYS, and successful capital campaign.
 - The Chautauqua Lake Outlet Greenway, which conserved 80 acres of land, including $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the shoreline of Chautauqua Lake and Outlet. (An area described in the NYS Open Space Plan as "an ecological oasis.")
 - A conservation easement protecting 16 acres of forest land, including 900 feet of shoreline at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center across from Chautauqua Institution. (CWC raised \$843,000 for this effort.)
 - The Wells Bay Lakeshore Site, a popular boating and swimming site.
 - The Whitney Bay Wetlands Site, an important habitat and fishing site.
- Facilitate the conservation of Midway Park as a state park and the Town of Westfield's acquisition of 1,800 feet of Barcelona Beach and 2,000 feet of creek side public access along Chautauqua Creek.
- Conserve 94 acres on the Cassadaga Lakes protecting $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of natural shoreline and 20% of the lakes' entire shoreline (2003-2020), including the 76-acre Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park.
- Accept the donation of the 100-acre Dobbins Woods Preserve and purchase the 83-acre Elm Flats Wetland Preserve as its first two conservation acquisitions in 1995.
- Receive two land donations totaling 44 acres from Jay Stratton to establish two preserves on Chautauqua Creek, protecting part of the gorge and Westfield public water supply watershed.
- Enable landowners to restore thousands of feet of native plant habitats on shorelines with technical assistance through our *Healthy Landscapes - Healthy Waters*, *Starve the Algae! Save the Lake!* and *LakeScapes* programs, including assisting Chautauqua Institution to inventory its shoreline for their buffer installations.
- Hold educational programs and campaigns to increase awareness and implementation of more responsible land use practices on the part of governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals.
- Spur the Chautauqua County Legislature to enact a law regulating the use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus, which led to a similar law statewide.
- Partner with Chautauqua County, Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance to provide publicity and education through the Chautauqua Lake NYSWQIP tributary erosion control and re-vegetation projects at 12 sites, substantially reducing lake sedimentation fueling lake plant growth.